

the James & Madeleine *McMullan* FAMILY FOUNDATION

# LettersAboutLiterature

## CALL FOR STUDENT ENTRIES!

The Indiana Center for the Book invites students from Indiana in grades 4 through 12 to enter the 23rd annual **Indiana Letters About Literature** writing contest.

*Polish up your reflective writing skills and write a letter to an author—living or deceased—explaining how their work changed your view of yourself or your world.*

### ENTER ON ONE OF THE THREE COMPETITION LEVELS

**Level 1:** Grades 4, 5 and 6

**Level 2:** Grades 7 and 8

**Level 3:** Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12

### 2022-2023 DEADLINES

Emailed entries must be sent by midnight on **January 9, 2023**.

Mailed entries must be post-marked by **January 9, 2023**.



### AWARDS

First place winners in each competition level will receive a **\$100 cash award**.

Second place winners in each competition level will receive a **\$50 cash award**.

Third place winners in each competition level will receive a **\$30 cash award**.

The highest placing winning letter written to an Indiana Author will receive a **\$50 cash award**.

One participating teacher will be selected for our Annual Teacher Prize of **\$150 cash award**.

**Over 100 winners will be selected for our annual Indiana Letters About Literature anthology.**

### SUBMITTING YOUR LETTERS

**Entry Form:** Letters must be submitted with an entry form. Individual entries should use the **2023 Individual Entry Form**. Class sets should use the **2023 Group Entry Form**. In addition, the following information should be included on each letter for class sets: student name, teacher name, and school name. Entry forms are available at: <https://www.in.gov/library/lal.htm>.

**Submit via Email:** Letters can be submitted via email. Send entries as email attachments. PDF, JPG, and DOC accepted. Please do not send a link to a Google Doc(s). Letters must be accompanied by an entry form. Email entries to [youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov](mailto:youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov).

**Submit via Mail:** Letters can be submitted via mail. Letters must be accompanied by an entry form. Mail letters to:

**Indiana Center for the Book / Indiana State Library / 140 N. Senate Ave / Indianapolis, IN / 46204**

**Ownership:** All letters become the property of the Indiana Center for the Book. Please keep a copy of your entries, as no letters will be returned.

**Contact Information:** For questions, please contact [youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov](mailto:youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov) or Suzanne Walker at (317) 232-3700.

## HOW TO ENTER IN 10 EASY STEPS!

1. Select a fiction or nonfiction book, short story, poem, essay, or speech (**excluding song lyrics**) that you have read and about which you have strong feelings.
2. Imagine sitting down with the author of this work and sharing your personal thoughts. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation rather than a book report or a fan letter. Keep in mind that this is a reflective writing contest. Think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the author's words.
3. Share **specific details** both **about the work** and about **your reaction to the work**. Write honestly and from your own perspective.
5. **Type** your letter, which must use **at least 400 words and no more than 800 words**.
6. Make sure your letter includes a date, greeting, body, closing, and your name. In addition, the following information should be included on each letter for class sets: student name, teacher name, and school name.  
*Note: All letter elements are included in the total word count.*
7. Have someone else read your letter and give you some feedback. Review and revise your letter. The best letters are proofread and polished, not first drafts.
8. Ensure that your letter is accompanied by the **proper form and follows all contest rules**. Forms and Official Contest Rules can be found at the contest website at <https://www.in.gov/library/lal.htm>.
9. Submit your typed letter via email or via the mail.  
**Emailed entries must be sent by midnight on January 9, 2023.**  
**Mailed entries must be post-marked by January 9, 2023.**
10. If you have questions about your entry, feel free to email Suzanne Walker at [youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov](mailto:youngreaderscenter@library.in.gov). **The Winner List will be distributed by March 7, 2023 to the email address listed on your entry form.**



### ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

**ADDRESSES THEME:** The entry is written to the author and provides reflective details to support how the author's work changed the reader's view of the world or self. The reader relates the book to themselves rather than summarizing the book's plot or literary elements and provides specific examples from the text to reflect upon.

**EXPRESSION and VOICE:** The writing in the entry is fluent and includes appropriately chosen vocabulary. The entry is personalized, with unique and creative language and content.

**STRUCTURE:** Entry presents ideas in a logical, organized manner without unnecessary repetition.

**GRAMMAR:** The letter is proofread for errors of spelling and punctuation.

*The Indiana Letters About Literature contest is brought to you by the Indiana Center for the Book located in the Indiana State Library, and is made possible by generous support from the James and Madeleine McMullen Family Foundation, with additional support from the Indiana State Library Foundation.*

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**CENTER FOR THE BOOK**  
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